

Patent claims

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first random number and the first response, as part of a triplet data set (Challenge 1/Response 1/Response 2).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the network interprets the first response (Response 1), which is sent back from the terminal (M), as the second random number (Challenge 2).

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8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the filling-out process is carried out on a subscriber-specific basis, and wherein the complete length of the first response (Response 1) is shortened before transmission to the other station.
9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first response (Response 1) is filled out with defined bits from the

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10. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second random number (Challenge) corresponds to the original first response (Response 1) before it was shortened.
11. The method as claimed in one of claims 1-10, wherein the network is a GSM network.
12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1-10, wherein the network is a wire-based network.
13. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the individual, mutually authenticating components in a wire-based network are different monitoring units of computers which authenticate themselves with a central computer, and vice versa.
14. The method as claimed in one of claims 1-13, wherein the AUC calculates the triplet data sets requested by the network and transmits these to the network off-line and independently of time, on request by the network, but in any case before the data interchange between the network and the terminal.